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Farm Mobilization FACT SHEET

no. 1-3; 1951-

no. 1-15, 1952

No. 1-- Grain Conservation and Storage

July 1951

NEED FOR CAREFUL HANDLING AND STORING OF GRAIN ON FARMS

Increased production of grain is one of the prime demands on agriculture as the Nation mobilizes its defenses. And to maintain a high-level flow of grain from U.S. farms, it is important to prevent losses in grain already produced. Farmers can reduce tremendous annual losses of grain by (1) increasing grain storage capacity on farms, repairing present storage facilities, and carrying out pest control measures, and (2) eliminating waste and inefficiency in feeding their livestock.

GRAIN STORAGE SPACE WILL PROBABLY BE TIGHT THIS YEAR

It is especially important for farmers to consider whether storage facilities on farms are adequate for this year's crops. Storage conditions are expected to be tight, particularly during and immediately after the harvest season. Even though present rates of feeding livestock are high and livestock numbers are increasing, storage space will be in heavy demand from this year's bigger crops of grain.

If the 90 million acre corn goal is planted and yields are average, the total production will be about 3.3 billion bushels. Although production of some of the other feed grains may be less than in 1950 corn normally constitutes about 75 percent of the total feed grain supply. If the drive to replace abandoned winter wheat with grain sorghums in the southern winter wheat area is successful the total production of feed grains in 1951 could be very high.

Expectations for the total wheat crop in 1951 are slightly more than 1 billion bushels, even though the winter wheat crop has deteriorated.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of Information

A wheat crop of that size may move slowly from producing areas to terminals if the recent difficulty of moving wheat from the spring wheat area is an indication of what may take place at harvest time. Although the general demand for boxcars for movement of agricultural products during the spring is relatively light, considerable difficulty has been experienced this past winter and spring in shipping spring wheat (1950 crop stored on farms and in elevators) to terminals.

The short period of harvest brought about by modern harvesting methods makes it necessary that farmers provide grain storage on their farms until such time that the railroads can move the grain and markets are able to handle the grain without excessive discounts.

ADDITIONAL STORAGE WILL BE NEEDED ON FARMS

Although CCC owns approximately 545 million bushels of temporary storage (mostly in binsites in the Midwest) and farm storage capacity has been increased by at least 85 million bushels (CCC storage facility loans only), if production goals are realized additional storage is needed on farms.

In the announcement of the extension of the CCC storage facility loan until June 30, 1952, the Secretary of Agriculture said, "To take care of these reserves without putting undue strain on our commercial storage and transportation facilities, we need expanded farm storage capacity in many areas."

PRESENT HARVESTING METHODS CALL FOR CHECK ON MOISTURE

During the last ten years a relatively high percentage of our small grain in most areas has been harvested by combines. Since the grain is standing out in open fields, many producers have crowded the moisture percentage limitations of their grain in order to avoid loss due to shattering or storm damage.

Most of our present damage to bin stored grain is due to failure to properly check or stay within safe moisture limits at time of harvest.

Proper checking of moisture prior to harvest, drying facilities, or ventilating equipment in bins can contribute much to long time safe storage and higher quality grain.

FARM STORAGE STRUCTURES NOT IN BEST REPAIR

It is known that many farm storage structures are not in first class condition. Normal deterioration and use require attention to upkeep and repair. Unless special steps are taken, the tendency is to let such repairs go until harvest time or not get them done at all.

PESTS ANNUALLY DESTROY MANY TONS OF GRAIN

The grain already in storage on farms will shrink appreciably from insects and rodent damage unless attention is given to control of pests. Insects in farm-stored grain eat or destroy an estimated 5 percent or more of our stored grains. Rats destroy about 4 percent of the total grain and cereal crop.

Although fumigation is effective in controlling insects in stored grain, a good start can be made by being sure bins have been cleaned and treated inside with a good spray material, such as 5% DDT.

FEEDING METHODS OFTEN WASTEFUL OF GRAIN

Careless feeding methods contribute to inefficiency and waste. Such devices as feeding floors and self-feeders help increase the quantity of animal products from a given amount of grain.

A FIVE-POINT INFORMATION PROGRAM

An information program, with all U.S.D.A. agencies participating, is proposed to meet this situation. The purpose:

- (a) To increase farm grain storage capacity in areas where needed.
- (b) To get all existing farm grain storage facilities in good repair.
- (c) To get all existing farm grain storage facilities rat-proofed if in rat-infested areas.
- (d) To increase control of insects in farm-stored grain.
- (e) To decrease waste in feeding grain to livestock.

WORKING OUT THE INFORMATION PROGRAM

So that farmers throughout the country may be fully informed about the importance of the grain storage and conservation program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is undertaking the information program outlined below:

Farm papers and magazines

Distribution of this fact sheet and allied material at appropriate times to Extension editors and also to farm paper editors.

Publications

Reprinting of the one-page circular "Save Grain by Fumigation".

Reprinting in brief leaflets appropriate parts of Farmers Bulletin 2209, "Storage of Small Grains and Shelled Corn on the Farm";

- (1) Requirements for bins and granaries and bin construction.
- (2) Methods of conditioning damp grain.
- (3) Protecting farm-stored grain from insects and rats.

Radio

Fact sheet and other material for agricultural programs from Washington on national networks.

Fact sheet and other material for Radio Farm Program Directors.

Encouragement of U.S.D.A. agencies to use similar material on State broadcast.

Press

U.S.D.A. press releases at appropriate times calling attention to need for proper storage and protection of grains.

Suggested press statements to State offices of U.S.D.A. agencies for State and county office use.

Advertisers

Fact sheet and other material which advertisers could use in advertising space to advance the program.

The information program should include calling attention to the availability of plans for bins, granaries, and drying units, at State Agricultural Extension Services.

